

Last Will and Testament of John Howard

John Howard, of the City of Macon, Bibb County Georgia, being now in good health, and of sound mind do make & ordain this as my last will & Testament

- Item 1st I do hereby constitute & appoint my friend Thomas Hardman Esq. of the City, County and State aforesaid in conjunction with my beloved wife Susan P. Howard, as Executor & Executor to this my last will & Testament.
- Item 2nd I do hereby give and bequeath to my daughter Susan A. Smith my negro girl Margaret, with all her issue.
- Item 3rd I do further give to my daughter Cassie my girl Hester with all her issue, with a bed & furniture & Bureau to be given her at the time of her marriage, or at the age of Twenty one years.
- Item 4th I do further give to my daughter Lydia Arciaux, my girl Kitty Ann, with all her issue, a bed and furniture, with a Bureau at the time of her marriage, or at the age of Twenty one years.
- Item 5th I do give and bequeath to my daughter Mary at the time she reaches the age of sixteen years, my boy Silas, with a bed & furniture & a handsome Bureau, or sooner if she should marry.
- Item 6th I do give and bequeath to my son Thomas, at the age of twenty one years my boy William.
- Item 7th I do give and bequeath to my son John, at the age of twenty one years my boy Josiah.
- Item 8th I do give and bequeath to my son Edwin at the age of twenty one years my boy Alexander.
- Item 9th I do give and bequeath to my wife Susan P. Howard during her widowhood and no longer, the following negroes Aggy, Mary, Josiah, Daniel and Adam with the stock and but seven and various appurtenances thereto annexed, with one acre of Land, embracing the said house, where I now reside. Also all my household furniture, my horse and every cow I possess, comprehending all the stock belonging to my premises.
- Item 10th It is my will and desire, that if my wife in consultation with my Executor, should think it best to sell the real Estate devised to her or any or all of the negroes and put the avails in other property for the better support of the family, she be at liberty to do so.
- Item 11th It is my special will and desire that my wife have the younger children with her until they are educated, and also the property devised to each of the minor until the test is legitimated in the same manner for its distribution and apply the avails to their support and education.
- Item 12th In case my wife should marry it is my will that the property devised to her should be equally divided amongst my surviving children, or their lawful heirs - and the same I have devised to the youngest of the portion.

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Item 13th she is the only surviving heir of her mother, who is able to make her equal to myself in point of property. It is my desire that Laura (a cripple) should remain in the possession of my wife, with her mother & my daughter Mary, shall marry when she and then issue shall go to her exclusive benefit.

Item 14th I do hereby declare that remaining one acre and a third of land more or less belonging to the lot where I now reside, that is at present unimproved, be sold in such way as my Executor and Executors may think best, and out of the proceeds, I wish my lawful debts which, if I have rightly estimated them, do not amount to more than four hundred dollars be all paid; and the balance if any be put out on interest until my youngest child is educated, the annual income to be applied to the payment of my childrens Education, and when my youngest child shall have reached the age of sixteen years the said residue (if any) thus put out at interest shall be divided amongst my surviving children or their lawful heirs in the following manner. To Elizabeth H. Heston one fourth, and to the others, the other three fourths, share and share alike.

Item 15th I do give and bequeath to my three sons my library of books to be divided between them at her discretion.

Item 16th I do give to my son Thomas Coke, my silver watch, and all my papers to be used by him as he may think proper.

Item 17th I do give and bequeath to my wife, all the cash which may be found upon my person at the time of my decease.

In testimony of this being my last will and Testament I have hereunto affixed my hand and seal the Twenty ninth day of March A.D. 1836.

In presence of } John Howard 
William Fort.
Luke Bliss.

Georgia } Personally appeared in open court William
Bibb County } Fort one of the subscribing witnesses to the
will of John Howard deceased, who being
sworn says that he signed the said will as a subscribing
witness in the presence of the Testator, and that he
saw the said John Howard sign the same, and he
further says that he believes the said John Howard to have
been at the time of signing the same of sound and
disposing mind, and he moreover, that Luke Bliss
the other subscribing witness sign the said will
at the same time with this deponent, & in his
presence, and in the presence of the Testator.

Subscribed in open }
Court Oct 10th 1836 } William Fort.
Asa C. Ernest J. C. C.
at Bibb County, Ga.
John Howard